# SWADLINCOTE

# URBAN COUNCIL DISTRICT.

## Annual Report

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

SWADLINCOTE:

R. LEE, PRINTER, MARKET PLACE.

# Swadlincote Urban Council District.

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

## For 1895.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting my annual report for the year ended December, 1895, I would first observe that the rate per 1000 of Births and Deaths has been calculated upon an estimated population up to the middle of last year of 14,420.

The total number of deaths was 199, viz. : 96 males, and 103 females, giving a death rate of 13·8 per 1000.

Death rate for 1893, 17·57 } per 1000.
" " 1894, 15·63 }

The deaths registered from zymotic disease were 22, giving a death rate from this cause at 1·52 per 1000.

The death rate from zymotic causes

in 1893, was 2·21 } per 1000.
in 1894, was 2·81 }

The total number of births registered was 610, viz. : 332 males, and 278 females. The birth rate for the year was 42·3 per 1000, as compared with

1893, 39·14 } per 1000.
1894, 41·97 }

This equals a net increase during the year of 236 males, and 175 females—a higher birth rate for males, and an increased death rate for females.

## Death Rate for Swadlincote District Council, as required by the Local Government Act, 1894.

| Name of Disease. | | Under 5 years. | Over 5 years. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Smallpox | | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlatina | | 3 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | | 2 | 0 |
| Membranous Croup | | 4 | 0 |
| Fevers. | Typhus | 0 | 0 |
| | Enteric or Typhoid | 0 | 1 |
| | Continued | 0 | 0 |
| | Relapsing | 0 | 0 |
| | Puerperal | 0 | 1 |
| Cholera | | 0 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | | 0 | 1 |
| Measles | | 2 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | | 0 | 0 |
| Diarrhœa and Dysentery | | 4 | 2 |
| Rheumatic Fever | | 0 | 0 |
| Ague | | 0 | 0 |
| Bronchitis, Pleurisy & Pneumonia | | 17 | 11 |
| Heart Disease | | 0 | 16 |
| Phthisis | | 0 | 4 |
| Influenza | | 0 | 2 |
| Injuries | | 1 | 4 |
| All other Diseases | | 77 | 47 |
| | | 110 | 89 |

Total for 1895, from all causes and at all ages, 199.

On referring to Table A accompanying this, we find the summary of deaths at subjoined ages to be: Children under one year, 81; one year and under five, 31; five years and under fifteen, 3; persons aged fifteen and under twenty-five, 3; twenty-five and under sixty-five years, 31; sixty-five years and upwards, 50.

The mortality under one year equals a death rate of 132·8 per 1000 of births registered, as compared with that for

1893, 180·65 } per 1000.
1894, 134·22 }

The death rate from sixty-five years and upwards was 3·46 per 1000, as compared with

1893, 3·85 } per 1000.
1894, 2·04 }

The second part of my report on the Table marked B deals with new cases of infectious sickness. It will be seen from this that 158 cases which were notified to me came under this head. Several cases of measles, a few of whooping cough, and influenza, also occurred.

**Small Pox** As in the former year I am glad to be able to report a total immunity from this disease.

**Scarlet Fever** One hundred and fifteen cases were reported to me during the year, and only three deaths occurred from this cause, showing the epidemic to have been of a mild type throughout. The earliest cases occurred in January, in the Gresley Ward, and after a careful and painstaking inquiry on the part of your Sanitary Inspector and myself, both in regard to the milk and water supply and other causes, no satisfactory reason could be assigned for its persistence from the previous year. As has been mentioned above, the mildness of the type of the epidemic, may, in part, account for its spread, as no doubt cases remained unrecognised, and from these cases probably associating with other children at school and elsewhere, it assumed an epidemic form. Nevertheless, in point of numbers, at any one time, did there seem sufficient reason to adopt the somewhat alarming measure of closing the public schools, a step which I consider should only be adopted in extreme cases. As you are aware, the hospital selected for the admission of small-pox patients towards the close of the last epidemic of that disease, —but never used for that purpose,—was brought into requisition for the receival of scarlatina patients about the end of last September, only those being removed to it in whose homes there was over-crowding, or in which adequate means could not be taken for the isolation of the patients, or for their being properly nursed; in all, up to the end of the year, 16 patients were received, and in this connection it is gratifying to record the readiness with which the parents gave consent to the removal of their children, and to trace from that time a gradual diminution of the epidemic. My only regret in the matter is that use was not made of the hospital in the early part of the outbreak, had it been I am convinced that

the number of cases would not have been so large. One death occurred in the hospital during the year.

Typhoid Fever

Nine cases were reported during the year, and one death arose from this cause. In seven out of the nine cases badly-trapped house drains were found to exist; in the other two instances no definite cause could be ascertained.

Puerperal Fever

Only one case was reported during the year, and that fatal.

Erysipelas

Twenty cases were reported, with one death, during the year. As I mentioned in my last report, I consider it almost useless to retain this amongst the diseases notified compulsorily: much better to notify measles and whooping cough.

Membranous Croup

Four cases, all fatal, were reported during the year. They occurred in the early months of the year, at places far apart. No insanitary condition of the houses could be traced as a cause, and in three of the cases the houses were detached from others.

Diptheria

Eight cases, with two deaths, were reported during the year, and in every instance a faulty state of the sewers was found to exist, the probable cause of the disease being the escape of sewer gas into the houses in which it occurred. Under this head I may mention the excellent arrangement inaugurated by the County Medical Officer (Dr. Barwise), for the examination of the membranes from the throat, to confirm, or otherwise the presence of, the diphtheritic bacilli.

Measles and Whooping Cough

Almost an entire absence from these diseases, only two deaths being reported from the former, and none from the latter cause.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia

Were less prevalent than in the previous year, only 28 deaths as compared with fifty in the former year being registered under these heads.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery

Under this head six deaths were reported, but it never assumed an epidemic form.

Water Supply

Under this head I am glad to be able to report an improvement upon former years, yet, at times, the quality of the water was often complained of, especially in the Newhall Ward.

The pressing forward of the Milton Scheme to its completion, in order to obtain a supply of water above suspicion, should receive the earnest attention of the Council.

Bye-Laws

A Code of Sanitary Bye-Laws is urgently needed to be drawn up by the Council; and the question of the too early occupation of newly-built houses, should again receive the Council's consideration. Several instances of illness arising from this cause came under my notice during the year.

Disinfecting Chamber

I would draw the Council's attention to the necessity of providing a New Disinfecting Chamber, the present one being nearly obsolete. In case the Council decide upon erecting a properly appointed Hospital, this matter might stand over till then, otherwise it should receive the early consideration of the Council.

Sewerage

I am glad to be able to congratulate the Council upon the commencement of their scheme of sewerage, and hope by its completion that the health of the district may be further improved.

Infectious Diseases Hospital

Although, as I have mentioned in another part of my report, use has been made of the temporary hospital for the isolation of scarlet fever patients; yet, from the limited accommodation,—and its being thus necessarily restricted to the use of one form of infectious disease, I trust that the Council will not allow the matter to rest, and either by joining with the other parts of the county, or of themselves erecting a hospital, befitting the needs and the population of their district.

Overcrowding

Only two cases were reported, and in each instance the nuisance was abated.

Inspection

I have made several periodic and systematic inspections of the district, besides on many occasions reporting the necessity for the abatement of nuisances specially brought to my notice—or casually observed. I have also periodically visited the cowsheds (nearly all of which require more frequent lime-washing), dairies, and slaughter-houses, and attended some of the Council's meetings, and by monthly reports informed you as the health of the district.

No case of diseased meat or fish was offered for sale; no occasion arose to take proceedings under the Adulteration of Foods Act, or in the matter of offensive trades, bakehouses, and workshops.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**JOHN HAMILTON, M.D.**

# Table A.

*DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the Swadlincote Urban Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

AGES AT WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED.

| | |
|---|---|
| Under 1 year ... ... ... ... | 81 |
| 1 and under 5 years ... ... ... | 31 |
| 5 ,, 15 ,, ... ... ... | 3 |
| 15 ,, 25 ,, ... ... ... | 3 |
| 25 ,, 65 ,, ... ... ... | 31 |
| 65 years and upwards ... ... ... | 50 |
| | 199 |

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | Under 5 years. | 5 years and upwards. |
|---|---|---|
| Scarlatina ... ... ... | 3 | 0 |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... | 2 | 0 |
| Membranous Croup ... ... | 4 | 0 |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... | 0 | 1 |
| Puerperal ... ... ... | 0 | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 0 | 1 |
| Measles ... ... ... ... | 2 | 0 |
| Diarrhœa and Dysentery ... | 4 | 2 |
| Phthisis... ... ... ... | 0 | 4 |
| Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy | 17 | 11 |
| Heart Disease ... ... ... | 0 | 16 |
| Influenza ... ... ... | 0 | 2 |
| Injuries ... ... ... ... | 1 | 4 |
| All other Diseases ... ... | 77 | 47 |
| | 110 | 89 |
| | 199 | |

## Table B.

*POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of New Cases of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1895, in the Swadlincote Urban Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

POPULATION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Census, 1891 ... ... ... ... | 13,889 |
| Estimated to middle of 1895 ... ... | 14,420 |

BIRTHS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Births registered during the year ... ... | 610 |

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

| | Under 5 years. | 5 years and upwards. |
|---|---|---|
| Scarlatina ... ... ... | 48 ... | 67 |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... | 5 ... | 3 |
| Membranous Croup ... ... | 5 ... | 0 |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... | 1 ... | 8 |
| Puerperal ... ... ... | 0 ... | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 1 ... | 19 |
| | 60 ... | 98 |
| | 158 | |

## Table C.

*Summary of SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department, during the Year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of Swadlincote.*

| | Inspections and Observations made. | Informal Notices served by Inspector. | Legal Notices by Authority | Nuisances Abated after Notice. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overcrowding ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vans and Tents ... ... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bakehouses ... ... ... | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slaughter-houses ... ... | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Smoke ... ... .. ... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | |
|---|---|
| House Bedding Stoved ... ... ... ... | 42 |
| Lots of Bedding Destroyed ... ... ... ... | 3 |